



# California State University Police Department



The California State University San Marcos Police Department (UPD) will be equipping its uniformed patrol officers with body-worn cameras (BWC). The use of BWCs will benefit members of the campus community and UPD by increasing accountability, transparency, and strengthening the trust of those UPD serves.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is a body-worn camera?**

- A BWC is a forward-facing audio and video capturing system that is attached to the outside, upper body of an officer's uniform to make video and audio recordings.

### **Why are UPD Officers wearing cameras?**

BWC technology has developed to the point where it is becoming an industry standard. Police departments nationwide are adopting the BWCs for their departments. Some of the proven benefits of wearing BWCs are:

- Greater transparency
- Promoting accountability
- Evidence collection
- Deterring criminal activity and uncooperative behavior
- Assisting officers with completing reports and providing testimony in court

### **Do other CSU campus police departments use BWCs?**

- Currently six CSU Police Departments have BWCs and eight other campuses are in the process of obtaining them.

### **What body-worn camera system will UPD be using?**

The department will be using Axon's body-worn camera system to capture video and their cloud-based video management system (VMS) at Evidence.com to manage the videos that have been captured. To learn more about the camera, VMS, or their other products, please visit their website at [www.axon.com](http://www.axon.com).

### **Who will be wearing body-worn cameras?**

- On-duty uniformed police officers and sergeants.



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## **When will officers be recording with their body-worn cameras?**

- Police officers will activate their BWC whenever they respond to calls for service or have public contacts initiated pursuant to a law enforcement investigation or investigation of possible criminal activity. The use of BWC is guided by department policy.

## **Will officers be recording casual conversations with people on campus?**

- No, officers will not be recording informal encounters with the campus community.

## **How do I know if I am being captured on video?**

- The camera worn by officers will be clearly visible. If the officer is taking law enforcement action and is wearing a video camera, you can assume he/she has activated the video. You may also ask the officer if his/her video is activated.

## **Are there places where officers cannot use their body cameras?**

- Typically, officers will not record in places where there is an expectation of privacy, such as restrooms, locker rooms, and medical patient care areas — unless there is reasonable suspicion a crime is being committed or the recording of the location is material to an investigation.
- There may be times when officers should be sensitive to a situation and use discretion on their decision to record contacts while handling certain calls for service. Some examples include, but are not limited to: interviewing of sexual assault victims, recording in hospitals when other patients who not related to a police incident could be recorded, or at the request of hospital staff member.

## **What about my privacy?**

- The courts have long held that an individual has no expectation of privacy in a public place. It is also true that if an officer has a legal right to be somewhere, he/she can also capture video. This does include private property. Concern for your privacy is also why we carefully guard the release of the captured video.

## **What happens to a video once it is recorded?**

- At the end of each shift, officers will upload the data to a cloud-based service to store the files. Depending on the type of video captured, data will be saved for a minimum of two years or as otherwise required by the California State University Records/Information Retention and Disposition Schedule.

## **What is the process for obtaining a copy of a body-worn camera video?**

- These types of requests need to be made in compliance with the Public Records Act and approved by the Chief of Police.